

City of Reading Charter Board

November 19, 2013 – 7:20 pm

Penn Room

Members Present: Susan Gibson, Jerry Richter, Elizabeth Stanley, James Fegley

Board Solicitor: Eric Smith, Esq

Members of the Public: none

**I. Administration**

- The Chair announced an Executive Session was held November 19, 2013 from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm with counsel to conduct a new member educational session and confer with counsel regarding pending litigation.
- The Board's December meeting will be deferred due to Board Christmas dinner planned for December 3, 2013. The Board's next regular meeting will be January 7, 2014 at 7:00 pm. Public notification for 2014 meeting dates and times has been coordinated through the City Clerk's office.
- The Chair announced there has been no new Right to Know requests.
- The 2013 Charter Board budget and October invoices were reviewed. Year to date total spent is \$206,386.20. All invoices will be forwarded for review when received.
- The Chair acknowledged and welcomed Mr. James Fegley to the Board. Mr. Anewalt's appointment remains pending dissolution of the Charter Review Commission.
- Charter Board minutes were reviewed for meeting of 10/29/13. A motion to accept minutes was made by Mr. Richter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Stanley. The motion passed by unanimous verbal vote.

**II. Education**

- No current issues

**III. Advisory**

- On November 5, 2013 a request for Advisory Opinion was received from the Charter Review Commission concerning Charter Sections 1203 and 1204. The Commission asks, "If in fact the [Berks County] Board of Elections can only receive a referendum through a duly enacted Ordinance from the City of

Reading, is the Mayor and City Council in violation of the City Charter if they fail to enact an ordinance requesting a ballot initiative from the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission Report?" The Advisory Opinion request, labeled as Advisory Opinion #34, is calendared for issuance on or before December 4, 2013.

IV. **Enforcement**

- The Board Chair announced an Executive Session to confer with counsel regarding pending litigation including the appeal of the Final Opinion and Order of Investigation #32, the Declaratory Judgment Action and Appeal of the Final Opinion and Order of Investigation #34 (Docket #1320083), Advisory Opinion #34, and procedural matters regarding Investigations #39, #40, and #41.
- The Board entered executive session at 7:30 pm and exited executive session at 8:50 pm. After returning to public session an invitation for public comment was extended, no comment was offered.
- A motion was made by Mr. Richter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Stanley to adopt and issue Advisory Opinion #34 as proposed by December 4, 2013. The motion passed by unanimous verbal vote.

V. **Closing**

- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Gibson, Chair

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